

forest remain today on the Taita Hills, and the avifauna, though greatly impoverished, is typically montane in composition.

The family Pycnonotidae is represented by five species whose current status may be summarized as follows.

ANDROPADUS MILANJENSIS STRIIFACIES Stripe-cheeked Greenbul
Not uncommon along forest edge, occurring both in the canopy and at middle levels. Generally a rather shy and silent species.

ANDROPADUS TEPHROLAEMUS USAMBARAE Mountain Greenbul
Although previously unrecorded from Kenya, one individual of this distinctive race was seen briefly, but well, at very close range in company with two *A. milanjensis* along the forest edge on 14 August 1978. This race is common in the West Usambaras and is also recorded from the nearby South Pares. This would appear to be the first record of the Mountain Greenbul from the Taita Hills.

PYCNONOTUS BARBATUS LAYARDI Yellow-vented Greenbul
This ubiquitous species is common and widespread throughout the area.

PHYLLASTREPHUS FLAVOSTRIATUS TENUIROSTRIS Yellow-streaked Greenbul
Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960) and White (1962b) give the range of this race as the Taita area of southeastern Kenya. The only known record of this is the female collected by V.G.L. van Someren on Mt Kasigau on 18 November 1938, now in the Chicago Museum (Rand 1958). Neither Chapin (1953) nor Hall & Moreau (1970) make reference to this record. The present status of this bird is unknown.

PHYLLASTREPHUS PLACIDUS PLACIDUS Placid Greenbul
A fairly common species occurring in small parties and frequently found foraging at the lower levels and amongst the forest floor leaf litter. I should like to thank Mr C.W. Benson and Maj M.A. Traylor for drawing my attention to the record of *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*.

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- D.A. Turner, Box 48019, Nairobi.

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RED-TAILED GREENBUL *CRINIGER CALURUS* IN TANZANIA I recently provided P.L. Britton with some Tanzanian bird records for the period 1970-73 in case they were of interest for the forthcoming *Birds of East Africa*. Among them was a record of the Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus* at Bukoba in West Lake. According to Britton (*in litt.*) this species was not collected in Bukoba District by either A. Loveridge or Th. Andersen, so that my sighting is still the only record for Tanzania. It is mentioned by Mann (1976) without details.

On 24 October 1970 several were watched in some large fruiting trees near the Bukoba Hotel, feeding with flocks of Rüppell's Long-tailed Glossy Starlings *Lamprotornis purpuropterus* and Splendid Glossy Starlings *L. splendidus*, and several Black and White Casqued Hornbills *Bycanistes*

subcylindricus, Double-toothed Barbets *Lybius bidentatus* and Eastern Grey Plantain Eaters *Crinifer zonurus*. They were readily identified by their prominent white throats contrasting with yellowish underparts, dark greenish-olive upperparts, and greyish-brown crown, nape and cheeks. In spite of their popular name their reddish-brown tails were not conspicuous except when caught in bright sunlight. However, their white throats were very noticeable and made them relatively easy to pick out in dark foliage.

REFERENCE

MANN, C.F. 1976. Some recent changes in our knowledge of bird distribution in East Africa. *Journal of the East Africa Natural History Society & National Museum* 157: 1-24.

W.G. Harvey, 2 Little Bredlands, Bredlands Lane, Westbere, Canterbury, Kent, England. Received 20 December 1978

BARE-EYED THRUSH *TURDUS TEPHRONOTUS* FROM THE SELOUS GAME RESERVE

A single specimen of the Bare-eyed Thrush *Turdus tephronotus* was taken in a mist net set in wooded grassland at the edge of riverine thicket near Karl Jahn's Rufiji River Tented Camp, Selous Game Reserve (Rufiji District, Coast Region, Tanzania, c.7°47'S., 30°14'E.) on 25 May 1978. The bird, catalogued in the University of Dar es Salaam vertebrate collection as UDSM-B-137, was a female showing no sign of reproductive activity. Nymphal ticks of the genus *Amblyomma* were found on the bird; two were attached to the outer covering of the lower mandible and three were attached to the inner lining of the mandible inside the mouth.

This specimen and a record of a bird of this species examined (but presumably not collected or preserved) on 19 August 1974 by M.A. & G.A. Matzke (undated MS: The bird fauna of the Selous Game Reserve) considerably extend the range of this species as shown in Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960) and Hall & Moreau (1970). We thank H. Hoogstraal and H.Y. Wassef for identification of the ticks.

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PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE JANUARY RANGE AND ABUNDANCE OF PALAEARCTIC DUCKS IN EAST AFRICA For the second year running the Ornithological Sub-committee of the East Africa Natural History Society has actively co-operated with the International Waterfowl Research Bureau in undertaking Palaearctic duck counts systematically (rather than on an *ad hoc* basis, as in the past) at about 30 localities. Most of these sites are on the Kenyan Rift Valley lakes, smaller waters in the western highlands and waters nearer Nairobi although one Ugandan water and two localities in Tanzania were also covered in 1979.

Table 1 gives the list of waters covered in January during at least one season and the species of Palaearctic duck, with some indication of abundance, found on each water.

Due, no doubt to the wet conditions in both years north of the equator, no single species concentrations reached four-figure proportions, although numbers were generally slightly higher in January 1979 than